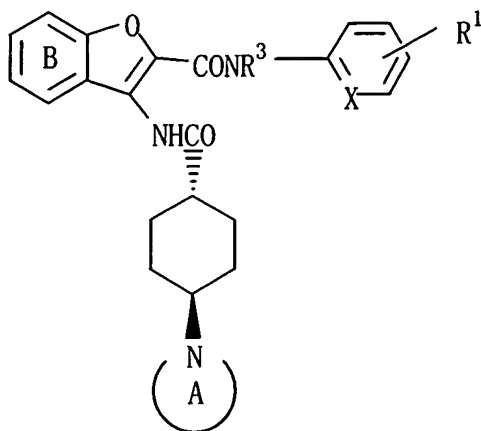


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-10 canceled.

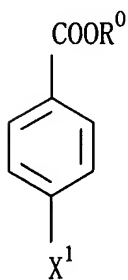
11. (New) A process for preparing a compound of the formula [1]:



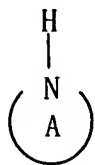
wherein X is a group of the formula: -N= or -CH=; R¹ is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a cyano group or an amino group optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group; Ring A is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group; Ring B is an optionally substituted benzene ring or an optionally substituted pyridine ring; and R³ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises:

(A)

1)-a) reacting a compound of the formula [II]:



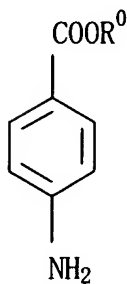
wherein R⁰ is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group and X¹ is a leaving group with a compound of the formula [III]:



wherein Ring A is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, or

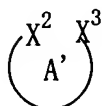
1)-b) reacting a compound of the formula [IV]:

wherein the symbol is the same as defined above with a compound of the formula

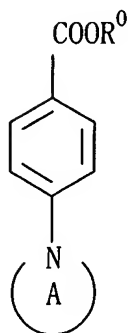


[V]:

wherein A' is a group derived from a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group by removing a nitrogen atom, and X² and X³ are leaving groups;

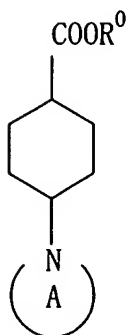


2) subjecting the resulting compound of the formula [VI]:

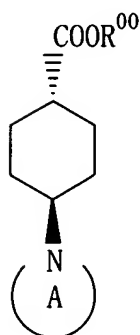


wherein the symbols are the same as defined above to catalytic reduction;

3) subjecting the resulting compound of the formula [VII]:



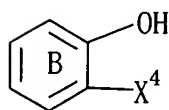
wherein the symbols are the same as defined above to lower-alkyl esterification when COOR^0 is a carboxyl group, followed by isomerization to give a trans-form compound of the formula [VIII]:



wherein R^{00} is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group and the other symbol is the same as defined above; and separately,

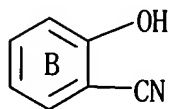
(B)

1) cyanation of a compound of the formula [IX]:

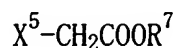


wherein Ring B is an optionally substituted benzene ring or an optionally substituted pyridine ring and X^4 is a leaving group,

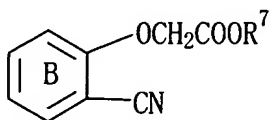
2) reacting the resulting compound of the formula [X]:



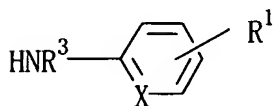
wherein the symbol is the same as defined above with a compound of the formula [XI]:



wherein R^7 is a hydrogen atom or an ester residue and X^5 is a leaving group, and reacting the resulting compound of the formula [XII]:

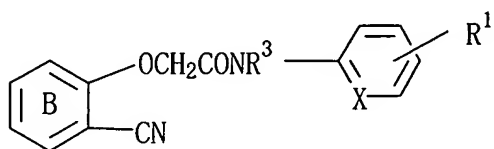


wherein the symbols are the same as defined above with a compound of the formula [XIII]:

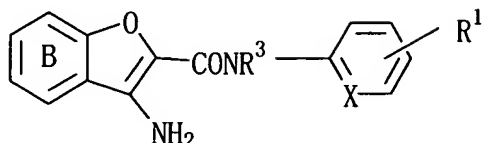


wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group, R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a cyano group or an amino group optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group and X is a formula: $-N=$ or $-CH=$, after converting the group R^7 of the compound [XII] to a hydrogen atom, when R^7 is an ester residue,

3) cyclizing the resulting compound of the formula [XIV]:



wherein the symbols are the same as defined above to give a compound of the formula [XV]:

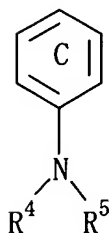


wherein the symbols are the same as defined above; and

(C)

reacting a compound of the formula [XV] with a compound of the formula [VIII] or a reactive derivative thereof.

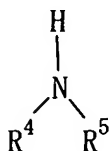
12. (New) A process for preparing a compound of the formula [VI']:



wherein Ring C is an optionally substituted aromatic ring and the formula: NR⁴R⁵ is an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula [II']:

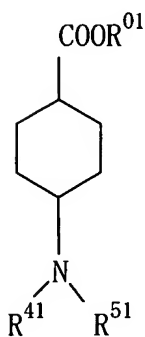


wherein X¹ is a leaving group and other symbol is the same as defined above with a compound of the formula [III']:

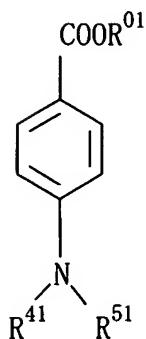


wherein the symbols are the same as defined above in the presence of a group VIII metal compound supported by a solid phase.

13. (New) A process for preparing a compound of the formula [VII']:

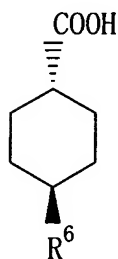


wherein R⁰¹ is a hydrogen atom and the formula: NR⁴¹R⁵¹ is a substituted amino group or a substituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, which comprises subjecting a compound of the formula [VI']:

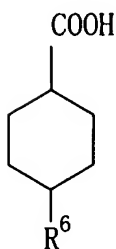


wherein the symbols are the same as defined above to catalytic reduction under low pressure and neutral to slightly basic conditions in the presence of a rhodium-carbon catalyst.

14. (New) A process for preparing a trans-form compound of the formula [VIII]:

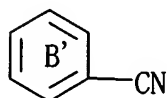


wherein R^6 is a substituent, or a carboxylic acid derivative thereof, which comprises isomerizing a cis-form or a mixture of cis- and trans-forms of a carboxylic acid derivative of the formula [VII]:

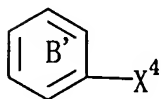


wherein the symbol is the same as defined above in the presence of a slight amount of water, and also in the presence of an alkali metal alkoxide or an alkali metal amide.

15. (New) A process for preparing a compound of the formula [X']:

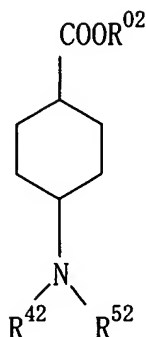


wherein Ring B' is an optionally substituted aromatic ring, which comprises cyanation of a compound of the formula [IX']:

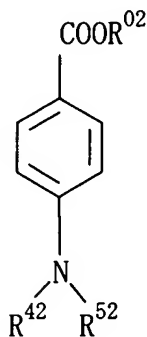


wherein X⁴ is a leaving group and other symbol is the same as defined above in the presence of a group VIII metal compound supported by a solid phase and a phosphine ligand.

16. (New) A process for preparing a compound of the formula [VII'']:

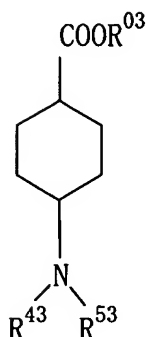


wherein R⁰² is a lower alkyl group and the formula: NR⁴²R⁵² is a substituted amino group or a substituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group, which comprises
subjecting a compound of the formula [VI'']:

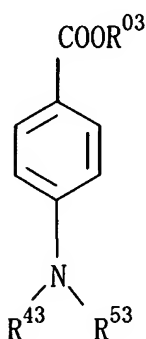


wherein the symbols are the same as defined above to catalytic reduction under low pressure in the presence of a rhodium-carbon catalyst.

17. (New) A process for preparing a compound of the formula [VII''']:



wherein R⁰³ is a lower alkyl group and the formula: NR⁴³R⁵³ is an unsubstituted amino group, which comprises subjecting a compound of the formula [VI''']:



wherein the symbols are the same as defined above to catalytic reduction under low pressure and neutral to slightly basic conditions in the presence of a rhodium-carbon catalyst.

18. (New) The process according to claim 12, wherein the group VIII metal compound is palladium or nickel, and the reaction is carried out in the presence of a ligand.

19. (New) The process according to claim 13, which is carried out under a condition of pH 7 - 8.

20. (New) The process according to claim 19, wherein the formula: NR⁴¹R⁵¹ is a substituted amino group or a substituted pyrrolidinyl group.

21. (New) The process according to claim 17, which is carried out under an acidic condition with acetic acid.

22. (New) The process according to claim 21, wherein the formula: $\text{NR}^{43}\text{R}^{52}$ is an amino group.

23. (New) The process according to claim 15, wherein the a group VIII metal compound is palladium or nickel, and the reaction is carried out in the presence of a ligand.

24. (New) The process according to claim 23, which is carried out in the presence of palladium-carbon, zinc and bromine.

25. (New) The process according to claim 23, wherein Ring B' is an optionally substituted benzene ring or an optionally substituted pyridine ring, and X^4 is a halogen atom.

26. (New) The process according to claim 15, wherein the phosphine ligand is triphenylphosphine.